(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to restrict the mercury pollution in the country; and

(c) the action taken to promote global cooperation on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The industrial discharge/emission limits for toxic metals including mercury have been prescribed by the Government. Action points have been evolved for complete recycling of mercury bearing effluent, installation of continuous on-line mercury analyzer, treatment of cell room ventilation gas, de-mercurization of caustic soda, reduction of mercury in hydrogen gas, capping of existing completed disposal sites, brine sludge treatment and water leachable mercury content in brine mud, reduction of mercury consumption and switching over of the mercury cell plants to membrane cell technology in a time bound manner.

Clearance for Hariharjore Project

4381. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA :

SHRI B. J. PANDA :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Orissa is a drought-prone State and agriculture is the main stay of the economy;

(b) whether Hariharjore Project of the State is pending clearance with Government;

(c) whether Government are aware that on completion, it will provide a sigh of relief to the drought hit farmers of the State; and

(d) if so, the time by when this would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Hariharjore irrigation project has already been accorded environmental clearance on 12-09-1995 as a part the Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project. An area of 9450 hectares in Orissa State will be brought under irrigation.

(d) Does not arise.